

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2007-286-WS - ORDER NO. 2008-89
FEBRUARY 1, 2008

IN RE: Application of Utilities Services of South) ORDER EXTENDING
Carolina, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and) ISSUANCE DATE OF
Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms) MERITS ORDER
and Conditions for the Provision of Water and)
Sewer Service)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of an extra five (5) days to issue the Order in this water and sewer rate case docket involving Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. (USSC or the Company). S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(C) (Supp. 2007) requires this Commission to rule and issue its order approving or disapproving any rate changes in full or in part within six months after a rate change request is filed. However, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(D) (Supp. 2007) states that should the Commission determine that it cannot, due to circumstances reasonably beyond its control, issue such order within the six-month period prescribed by this section, the Commission may, by order, extend the six-month period for an additional five days. In the present case, we believe that such circumstances exist, and we hereby order an extension of the issuance date of the merits order in this case from February 6, 2008, to February 11, 2008.

The “circumstances reasonably beyond our control” are clear in this matter. Due to circumstances outside of her control, the Court Reporter was uncertain as to when she

could complete the transcripts in this proceeding. Consequently, the date for proposed orders was set later than normal to give the parties adequate time to review the transcript prior to submitting their proposed orders. Since the proposed orders were only filed in the latter part of January, there has been insufficient time to thoroughly evaluate the evidence in this case. Accordingly, the additional five days to complete the order is necessary so that this Commission can have more time to properly evaluate the evidence, render a decision, and complete an Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The matter under consideration is an additional five (5) days to issue the merits order in this Docket as allowed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(D) (Supp. 2007).
2. The actual extension would be from February 6, 2008, to February 11, 2008.
3. There are clearly “circumstances beyond our control” existing in this instance that warrant the extension for issuance of the merits order in this Docket.
4. Under the present schedule, there is insufficient time for evaluation of the evidence and the rendering of the decision, with the subsequent completion of an Order.
5. The time for issuance of the merits order in this case should be extended to February 11, 2008.

ORDER

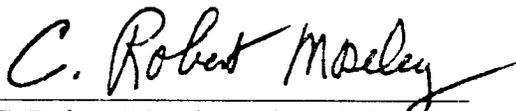
It is therefore ordered that the time for issuance of the merits order in this Docket shall be extended to February 11, 2008. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTES1:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)